

GATHER AND STORE SEED CORN THIS FALL BEFORE IT FREEZES

Go Into Your Best and Earliest Planted Fields During Last Week in Sept. or First Week in Oct.

Quit Guessing—We Cannot Tell When We Select an Ear From the Wagon-Box as We Unload or From the Crib What Sort of a Stalk It Came From—We Do Not Know Whether the Stalk Was Weak or Strong, Early or Late, in Maturity—The Best Way to Improve the Quality, Maturity and Yield of Our Corn Is to Select Ears in the Field—It Will Pay You.

By P. G. HOLDEN, Agricultural Extension Department International Harvester Company of New Jersey.

Every ear of corn intended for planting was harvested at the proper time and properly stored, millions of dollars would be added to the value of the corn crop.

Fig. 1. Harvesting the Seed Corn for Next Year's Planting.—Every ear of corn intended for planting should be harvested before the severe fall frosts, and stored where it will dry out and keep dry. In Iowa and the northern half of Illinois this work should be done the last ten days of September and the first four or five days of October. Frozen seed corn costs the country millions of dollars every year.

Fig. 2. Tying up the Seed Corn. Putting in the First Ear.—A piece of binding twine is doubled and the ends tied together. Note how the string is held in the hands.

Fig. 3.—Showing the String of Corn Completed Ready to Be Hung



Fig. 1.

Fig. 2. Tying up the Seed Corn. Putting in the First Ear.—When the Last Ear is laid in, one end of the string is slipped under the string in the other hand, and fastened.

Tie and hang up the seed the same day or evening that it is brought in. This method of tying up allows a free circulation of air. It is circulation of air, not heat, that is needed to dry out the seed. Corn commonly contains at this time from 30 to 45 per cent of water. It requires but a few minutes to tie up 300 or 400 ears.

Fig. 4.—Experiments show that the attic or some upstairs room where the windows can be opened to give circulation of air during October and November, is the best place to hang seed corn. A space three by eight feet will hold 200 strings of seed corn like



Fig. 2.

the above or enough to plant 200 acres. Discard three-fourths of it in the spring and there is left sufficient to plant 50 acres, or more than the average acreage on each farm. Hang the string in rows four inches apart each day.

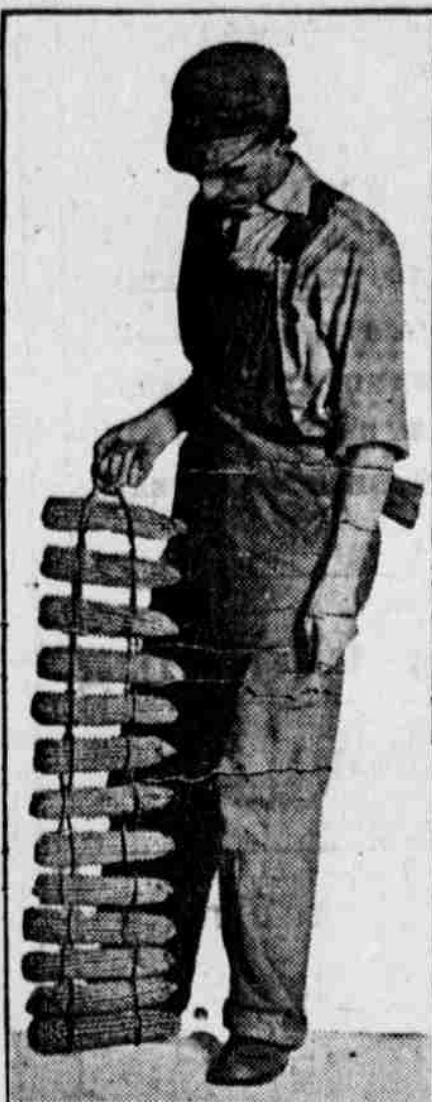


Fig. 3.

One of the very best methods for gathering the seed is to go into the best and earliest planted fields with bags and select well matured ears from the most vigorous stalks. The cut shows a convenient way to arrange a sack so that you may have both hands free for picking.

You must not fail to consider the stalk in selecting your seed, for it takes large, thrifty stalks to produce good big ears. It is not a good plan to take the ear from a stalk that grew in a hill by itself, or from one in the hill with a barren or weak stalk. Many of the kernels on such an ear are likely to be pollinated by the barren or weak stalk.

Choose Ears of a Medium Height.—If you select the highest ears your corn will gradually become late, and if you select the lowest ears you will soon have an early corn with shallow

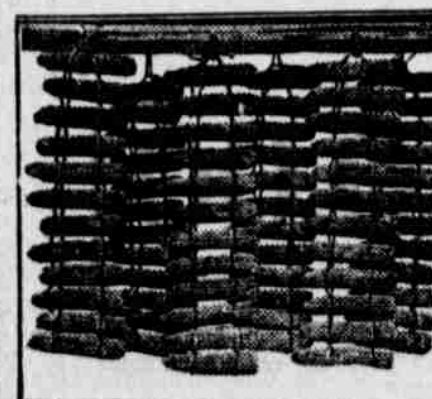


Fig. 4.

kernels and wide furrows between the rows.

Pick ears that droop over so that their tips are turned downward. Such ears shed water better when it rains and are usually drier than ears standing upright. The shank should be short, as ears with long shanks are harder to husk, and are more often damaged. See that the husks are long enough to cover the tip of the ear, but do not extend far beyond. If the tip is left bare, it is likely to be damaged by insects or disease, and if the husks extend far beyond the point of the ear they are usually tightly closed, so that it cannot dry out well and is difficult to husk.

There should be a medium growth of broad, thrifty leaves distributed evenly over the stalk, and the plant should be free from all form of disease, such as smut, rust, etc., and should be free from suckers.

The advantages of this method of storing are first, that it gives better protection from mice than when it is spread on the floor, or corded in piles or put in racks. Second, it gives better circulation of air, which allows the corn to dry out quickly and thoroughly, thus protecting it from molding or sprouting and from being frozen while it is sappy. The greatest enemy to good seed corn is freezing while it still contains moisture, consequently there is more danger from late harvesting than from too early harvesting. However, it is not a good plan to harvest seed while the corn is immature, as it is more difficult to preserve, will be chaffy and give weaker plants than corn which has been allowed to fully mature on the stalk.



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TEN YEARS AGO

Herald of September 14, 1905

A meeting of the Western Nebraska Merchants' Association will be held in Alliance, in the opera house, Wednesday, September 20, for the purpose of formulating plans to advance and protect the interests of western Nebraska merchants. The call is made by R. A. Watts, president, and L. W. Martyn, secretary.

The Alliance band, under the direction of Prof. Demery, will give a concert next Saturday evening on the Zbinden corner.

D. Murphy, trainmaster for the Burlington at Deadwood, died this morning at 2 o'clock. He was operated on Wednesday morning for appendicitis, which caused his death. A wife and several small children are left to mourn. The funeral will take place at Broken Bow tomorrow.

G. M. Burns, principal of the Emerson school, was obliged to quit work Wednesday noon on account of neuralgia caused from bad teeth. He had eleven of the molars extracted Tuesday afternoon and expects the ailment to cease. Miss Pearl Bartz is filling his place in the school.

Bates Copeland, who has been visiting in the city for several days, will leave tomorrow morning for St. Paul, Neb., where he will locate. He has been at the old home at Loup City for a couple of weeks, and of course could not settle down to business again without visiting Alliance. We wonder why.

County Superintendent Rustin returned Friday from Lincoln where she had been in charge of Box Butte county's educational exhibit at the state fair. The exhibit was awarded third prize.

A. T. Lunn, trainmen's timekeeper, was called to Chicago to attend the meeting of timekeepers. He left Wednesday morning.

Mrs. T. Gregory, of Cody, Wyo., is visiting with her son, A. Gregory, who is in the telegraph service here.

Attorney Mitchell spent a few days in the Platte valley this week on legal business. Mr. Mitchell's clientele extends all over western Nebraska.

How to Avoid Auto Accidents

Don't Speed! Don't Speed! Don't Speed! Don't be afraid to go into low speed in tight places.

When in doubt—STOP! Don't pass a car or vehicle on the right side.

Don't run into thoroughfares from side streets at high speed. Cut your corners square, so that another car can have room to pass. Don't crowd other cars.

Don't run too close to the car in front.

Don't stop on a hill or incline close behind the car in front.

In turning a corner, with another car on your right turning the same corner, swing wide.

On country roads don't pass other cars at high speed.

On country roads, don't go too close to the ditch.

Drive carefully on wet streets.

Don't load your car over capacity.

Don't keep your headlights on in city streets, unless dimmed.

If driving slowly, keep close to the curb.

When you start, always turn to see what is coming behind you.

Watch the side streets carefully.

Always stop at railroad tracks and look both ways.

If a car is trying to pass you from the rear, give it plenty of room.

Use common sense and watch the other cars.

Don't Speed! Don't Speed! Don't Speed!

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